

s8namibia

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REPORT ON THE COSATU VISIT TO NAMIBIA

A Cosatu delegation visited Namibia on the 22h23h24th August 1989. The purpose of this visit was to meet the National Union of Namibian Workers in order to draw up plans that would concretise our solidarity links.

The delegation consisted of the following:

E Barayi (Cosatu President)

C Dlamini (Cosatu Vice President)

J Naidoo (Cosatu General Secretary)

J Matros (TGWU)

B Marie (NUMSA)

The delegation in addition to meeting NUNW met senior SWAPO representatives in Namibia at the time. The delegation intended meeting representatives from the Council of Churches and the Students Movement NAWSO. However due to time constraints these meetings did not materialize.

The visit did enable the delegates to concretise a planned solidarity link up with NUNW as well as to get an idea of the problems faced in the process independence. Suggestions are made below as to how Cosatu and the MDM could assist.

COSAIU NUNW MEETING DECISIONS

2.1 NUNW was represented by NUNW General Secretary Comrade Ya Otto. Representatives from the affiliate unions were present.

2.2 SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

It was agreed that a Solidarity Committee be established consisting of two representatives from NUNW and two representatives from Cosatu.

The function of this committee would be to:

- i. Co-ordinate the assistance programme.
- ii. Implement decisions reached between the two federations.
- iii. Ensure information exchange

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iv Strengthen relationship between NUNW and COSATU.

NUNW appointed the following people to represent them on the committee:

Ben Ulenga (MUN)

Sandile (NUNW Education)

Cosatu was to inform NUNW who their representatives would be.

It was further agreed that contact with NUNW its affiliates would continue on 3 levels.

- Federation to federation.

- Union to union

- Worker to worker (via the national shop stewards Council eg S.A.B. OK Bazaar etc)

SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

NUNW isolated the following areas where assistance was needed. These were discussed and suggestions made as follows:

MEDIA

Training was needed in use of computers and layout, writing etc.

It was suggested that TOPS, New African, New Nation could be approached to assist in this area.

ADMINISTRATION (ACCOUNTS)

It was suggested Cosatu auditors be approached to assist in setting up accounting system, in drawing specific policies e.g staff transport/vehicles policy.

There was discussion on how NUNW/Cosatu structured its departments, set out job descriptions, drew up staff conditions of employment, how staff reported to Office Bearers and what the specific role of the Office Bearers and where.

It was suggested that a Cosatu/NUNW staff workshop be held to look at these issues in detail.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

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The following points were made:

- Much Shop steward training could be done through union to union contact.

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- A Cosatu/NUNW workshop should be held to discuss the drawing up of an Education programme.
- Cosatu and affiliates should inform NUNW and affiliates of National training seminars.
- Organizer training possibility should be discussed between unions.

CO-OPERATIVES

Unions or groups waiting to set up co-operatives should contact Cosatu. Cosatu will arrange for people with experience to attend.

WALVIS BAY

NUNW affiliates (MANWU/NAFAU) have been organizing in this area.

Employers are refusing to recognise Namibian unions as they say they are in South Africa.

It was agreed that Cosatu affiliates will put pressure on South African employers in Walvis Bay to recognise NUNW affiliates.

Certain companies were preventing workers from registering/voting in Namibia.

Cosatu undertook to get reports from Cosatu affiliates who have organised companies with branches in the area.

The following companies were being organised at present:

- Afrox
- Metal Box
- Worker Freight Services
- Shell, BP, Caltex, Trek
- SWA Chem (british Plastics)

SATUC (South African Trade Union Coordinating Committee)

Comrade Ya Otto briefed us on the position relating to SATUC.

- SATUC was formed in 1983 as a Counterpart to SADCC formed in 1980 by head of states of frontline countries and including Namibian and South African Liberation Movements.

- There is dissatisfaction amongst all frontline '3' C

states (excluding Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana & Zambia) with the present leadership of SATUC in particular the Secretary General Chiana (expelled from Gaborone, established in Swaziland - expelled from Swaziland now settled in Lilongwe - Malawi).

Dissatisfaction relates to

- mismanagement of funds
- no organising solidarity link up.
- holding meetings in places where liberation movements have difficulty getting to e.g. Lesotho.

- NUNW (Ya Otto) and SACTU have been sitting on SATUCC.

- SATUCC falls under OATUU Southern African region.
- SATUCC is now placed close to AALC though finding links.

There was agreement that SATUCC should be transformed.

A special conference should be called via OATUU/Mozambique to deal with problems with the role of SATUCC.

3. MEETINGS WITH SWAPO

SWAPO representatives outlined the problems they were facing in the S A administered election process.

After discussions with SWAPO we met UNTAG representatives and expressed our concern at the problems raised by SWAPO these included:

intimidation by KOEVERT

raiding of SWAPO activists houses by SWAPOL.

several killings of SWAPO supporters.
delay of registering voters in the SWAPO stronghold.
SWAPO asked if we would assist in arranging for Namibians
living in South Africa particularly in the Cape to get to
Namibia to register and later to vote.
Cosatu informed SWAPO of its resolution to collect money
to assist in its election campaign.